

## Greens back 'Gillow quarter' redevelopment opportunity

The council-owned St. Leonard's House (which used to house Gillow's furniture factory) is now vacant. It backs on to the Gillow building on North Rd. and Nisbet's Mill.

Aside from the council, land ownerships are in the hands of local businesses which want to transform the area into a residential and commercial quarter. Green councillor Tim Hamilton-Cox said: *"Local property owners and developers are wanting to work with the council to produce a residential-led redevelopment scheme for consultation. There's a great opportunity here to put new life into a run-down area."*

East of the Gillow quarter lies the Canal Corridor, much of which is also in the council's ownership. British Land promised to submit a planning application for the Canal Corridor by the end of 2013 but is reportedly still working up development options.

## We're going to miss you, Fiona

Long-serving Bulk ward PCSO Fiona Kennaugh has moved on. Cllr Caroline Jackson said, *"For ten years Fiona has been helping residents feel more secure in their neighbourhood. During difficult times she has been willing to listen and to do her best to sort out problems of all kinds. It will take a special person to step into her shoes."* Fiona's new duties in the Early Intervention Team are dedicated to ensuring vulnerable young people are supported to keep out of crime. We know how important this is to Fiona and wish her all the best as she openly faces up to the challenge of dealing with the early onset of Parkinson's disease.



## Local Living Wage Week: April 10th-17th

A series of events are planned to increase public awareness of the Living Wage and its benefits and to campaign for larger employers to pay it. Cllr Andrew Kay, who led the move for the city council to adopt it in 2013, said, *"Paying the Living Wage as a minimum level of pay (currently £7.85/hr) will start to address inequality, including child poverty. It also establishes the principle that work should bring dignity and pay enough to provide the essentials of life."*

## New plan for derelict Bulk Rd. site

A local developer is preparing to submit a detailed planning application for the derelict site between Bulk Rd. and Back Caton Rd. The proposals are for a new student 'village' to include 500 self-contained student bedrooms within four separate buildings; and a landscaped public realm with small retail and coffee kiosks, which would be available to the wider community.

Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox commented: *"At time of writing we don't yet know the design detail and the scheme's impact on residential amenity. But let's hope it provides a way forward to improve the look of the neighbourhood."*

## Opportunity to protect valued green spaces

The city council has put out a call to identify green spaces which are



'demonstrably special to local communities'. The deadline is 26<sup>th</sup> April and the council will then set up a Local Green Space Working Group to help make the final assessment. The chosen spaces will have a protection designation similar to Green Belt - which is why Green councillors see this as a very important opportunity for places like Ridge Hill Green and Miss Whalley's Field (pictured above).

## Safeguarding the NHS as a public service

Green party general election candidate Chris Coates is supporting a cross-party NHS bill designed to restore the NHS as a fully public service. This would include abolishing the purchaser/provider split and joining-up health and social care services. For more details see: <http://www.nhsbill2015.org/>.

## General and city council elections on 7<sup>th</sup> May

Voters will receive two ballot papers. On the city council election ballot paper, people will have 3 votes to elect the 3 councillors to represent Bulk ward. All three current Green councillors - Tim, Caroline and Andrew - are candidates. They say: *"We aim to be informed and active ward councillors who work hard for Bulk residents and we ask for your support in the local elections."*

## Your Bulk ward city council candidates

Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox (pictured right) moved on to Ridge in 1992 and ran a small business on Luneside. He says, *"Year-on-year Lancaster is getting the highest level of Government funding cuts. The Greens have played a major role in mitigating the impact - for example by maintaining full council tax support for the poorest. We have an alternative vision of development focussed on the derelict and tired areas in the city; and the drive to continue council initiatives to save and generate energy - like the Middleton solar farm - and to expand them in to job-creating opportunities."*



Cllr Caroline Jackson (left) was a teacher in Lancaster for twenty years ending her career as head at Hornby High. Since then she has co-organised the Claver Hill project behind Ridge and been instrumental in setting up the Ridge Community Drop-In and Tenants and Residents Association, as well as much community work, for example as a friend of Williamson Park. Caroline says, *"My passions are for developing active Bulk ward communities and a thriving local economy here in Lancaster."*

Cllr Andrew Kay has lived in Bulk ward for thirty years, raised two boys here, and is a family support worker. As a councillor, Andrew has been active in limiting the impact of austerity; including a successful move for the council to become a Living Wage employer. And at 'ground level' he is a keen member of Claver Hill food growing project. Andrew adds, *"We need more food growing projects not food banks; more community renewable energy schemes (not just more profits for energy companies); and more decent affordable homes - while retaining our green spaces!"*



## Wi-fi for all in city centre?

Lancaster University's Digital Lancaster project offers the prospect of free wi-fi in the city centre. Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox said: *"I've been pressing the city council to take up this great opportunity for the council and University to collaborate to make the city centre a wi-fi hotspot to benefit students, residents, visitors and businesses."*

## Grand Theatre gets council money for maintenance work

Green councillors Caroline and Tim met with the Grand last summer to support a bid for a smaller sum to help with urgent repairs to this wonderful listed building and so were delighted when the city council committed £15k in the budget to ensure the continued, safe operation of the theatre.

## Transport masterplan for city

The County Council has prepared a 'vision' of how it believes the district's transport network should look in 2031. After a year's delay it's currently due to be launched for consultation on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The masterplan seeks in particular to address the city's one-way system and the A6 corridor to Galgate.

## Ridge food-growing project expands

The Claver Hill community growing project, based in the field behind Central High School, will see the installation of two polytunnels and a compost toilet in March. Caroline said, *"After just one year of existence, we were very happy to get an Awards for All grant to add to a grant from the University Wind Turbine Fund which means a big step forward in realising our aim to increase skills and to make available more affordable fresh veg."*

## Park Square 'triangle' makeover a revelation

Tim reports: *"From the grimness of the concrete flags, many of which were broken, to the cleverly-designed green space and the new trees, the triangle is a wonderful example of the good the city council can do to improve the environment and everyday quality of life. Everyone to whom I've spoken is appreciative. Great credit is due to Paul Cocker and his team in Environmental Services."*

*Promoted by Andrew Brennand on behalf of North Lancashire Green Party, both of 49 Wingate-Saul Road, Lancaster LA15DW.*

### Your Green Party Councillors

City Cllr Tim Hamilton-Cox	☎ 01524 34223	✉ <a href="mailto:thamiltoncox@lancaster.gov.uk">thamiltoncox@lancaster.gov.uk</a>
City Cllr Caroline Jackson	☎ 07958 434549	✉ <a href="mailto:cjackson@lancaster.gov.uk">cjackson@lancaster.gov.uk</a>
City Cllr Andrew Kay	☎ (01524) 62788	✉ <a href="mailto:akay@lancaster.gov.uk">akay@lancaster.gov.uk</a>